

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, PINR,(STEWARD, VERNON RUDSTON WHITEFOORD)

TAGS: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON VERNON RUDSTON WHITEFOORD
(JIM) STEWARD, FORMER COUNSELLOR, SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION
TO UNITED NATIONS

1. BEFORE BEING REASSIGNED TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY IN WINTER 1976, JIM STEWARD WAS FIRST SECRETARY AND THEN COUNSELLOR OF SOUTH AFRICAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR SIX YEARS. HE WAS CHARGE FOR A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF HIS TIME HERE. STEWARD, WHO WAS BORN APRIL 30, 1931 IN EMTANGENI, SOUTH AFRICA, WAS FRIENDLY IN HIS DEALINGS WITH US MISSION OFFICERS IN NEW YORK. IN FACT, HE DEPENDED UPON WESTERN MISSIONS FOR MUCH OF HIS INFORMATION. IN TURN, HE WAS RELIABLE IN HIS REPORTING TO US.

2. STEWARD TENDED TO FOLLOW THE PARTY LINE AND USUALLY APPEARED TO BE IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE CURRENT POLICIES OF HIS GOVERNMENT. STEWARD WAS REASONABLY UNFLAPPABLE, ALTHOUGH HE COULD BECOME EMOTIONAL IN HIS RESPONSES WHEN DISCUSSING APARTHEID, IF THE DISCUSSION WENT FOR WHAT HE DEEMED TO BE TOO LONG. STEWARD WAS APPROACHABLE AND HAD GOOD, ALTHOUGH NOT HIGHLY VISIBLE, CONTACTS AMONG BLACK AFRICANS AT THE UN.

3. TOWARD THE END OF HIS TOUR, PERHAPS OCCASIONED IN PART BY UNCERTAINTY AND OR UNHAPPINESS OVER HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT IN THE MINISTRY, STEWARD BECAME OUTSPOKENLY FRANK WITH MISOFFS CONCERNING APARTHEID. STEWARD FORESEES THE POSSIBILITY OF URBAN COUNCILS IN SOUTH AFRICAN CITIES BEING GIVEN

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RESPONSIBILITY TO REGULATE LOCAL RACIAL PRACTICES AND

RACIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
CITIES. WHILE MORE IMAGINATIVE TOWARD THE END OF HIS
SERVICE IN NEW YORK, AND A GREAT ADMIRER OF THE US, WE
BELIEVE THAT HE QUICKLY WILL LAPSE BACK INTO CONSERVATIVE
SAG WAYS. STEWARD HAS A CHARMING WIFE; SEVERAL OF THEIR
CHILDREN WERE BORN WHILE THE STEWARDS WERE IN NEW YORK.
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